

HEALTH  
A 4 OCT 1946  
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MELKSHAM URBAN DISTRICT.  
ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.  
1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Melksham Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to tender my Twenty-sixth Annual Report which has been compiled as far as possible in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circulars.

Fortunately there was no real epidemic of infectious disease during the year, but there was a noticeable post-war deterioration in health of a minor character, mainly psychological in origin and due to the relaxation of tension, and also perhaps due to the fact that many, having put their best into the war effort, felt that relaxation was due to them and when they found that restrictions and rationing went on as before, just could not stand it.

GENERAL.

Area - 1042 acres.  
Estimated Population - 6,384.  
Rateable Value - £34,499.  
Sum represented by a penny rate - £137.

BIRTHS.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u> { Legitimate	55	42	97
{ Illegitimate	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>17</u>
Total	<u>68</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>114</u>

Birth rate - 17.86

Birth rate for England and Wales - 16.1

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u> { Legitimate	-	-	-
{ Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>



Still Birth Rate - .15

Still Birth Rate for England and Wales - .46

These are the official figures and are correct statistically, but the total births occurring in the district during 1945 were as follows:-

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Legitimate	211	198	409
Illegitimate	<u>93</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>169</u>
	<u>304</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>578</u>

Born in homes 28      Born in Hospital 550.

DEATHS.

The total Deaths for the year are 72.

Death Rate - 11.27

Death Rate for England and Wales - 11.4

The causes of deaths were:-

Cancer, all forms	8
Tuberculosis	-
Diabetes	1
Stroke	11
Heart Disease	25
Bronchitis	6
Intestinal Disorders	1
Acute Polioencephalitis	1
Nephritis	1
Premature Birth etc.	2
Accident and other causes	<u>16</u>
Total	<u>72</u>

No deaths from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes occurred during the year and this is especially satisfactory having regard to the actual number of births in the district during the year under review.

There were no deaths from infectious disease during the year.

	<u>Deaths of Infants under One Year.</u>		
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

Death Rates:

1. All infants per 1,000 live births - 17.5  
England and Wales - 46
2. Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births - 17.5
3. Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births - Nil

There is no unusual or excessive mortality which requires comment.





# HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

## Ambulance Facilities.

The Melksham Hospital Ambulance ('phone 244) is available for transfer of cases up to a 24 mile radius. St. John's Ambulance Brigade provide a 24 hour service of trained ambulance attendants.

245 journeys were made over a total of 2,765 miles.

The Avon India Rubber Co.Ltd. also have an ambulance in constant readiness for accidents in their factory.

Infectious cases are dealt with by the Wilts C.C. Ambulance working from the Trowbridge Isolation Hospital.

## Hospitals.

The Melksham Hospital, situated in Spa Road, contains 42 beds, is staffed by the local practioners and by a visiting staff of consultants from Bath who maintain a regular service in medicine, surgery and ophthalmology.

The Royal United Hospital, Bath, through its Consultants, works in close liaison with the Melksham Hospital and all cases requiring specialist investigation and treatment are treated at that Hospital.

Both these Hospitals are voluntary Hospitals.

## Immunisation.

This work is carried out by the County Council's Staff and the figures are set out below for Melksham Urban District. The percentage of school children and under fives immunised against diphtheria approximates to 81%.

### Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December 1945.

Age at 31.12.45. i.e. born in year.	Under 1 1945	1 1944	2 1943	3 1942	4 1941	5 to 9 1936-40	10 to 14 1931-45	Total under 15
Number Immunised	-	56	101	93	82	384	337	1053
Estimated Mid-year population 1945	447					854		1301

## Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

The number of cases of Infectious Disease notified are as follows:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	7	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-



<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Enteric (including typhoid)	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-
Measles	108	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	-	-
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-
Erysipelas	2	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
" polioencephalitis	1	1	1
Dysentery	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever	7	3	-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>AGES</u>												<u>Total</u>
	<u>Under</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>65 &amp;</u>	
	<u>1 yr.</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>to</u>	<u>over</u>	
		2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65		
Scarlet Fever						5	2						7
Whooping Cough	1		1		1								3
Measles	1	14	11	5	9	65	3						108
Acute Polio- encephalitis										1			1
Erysipelas										1	1		2

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

Set out below are particulars of new cases and deaths of respiratory and non-respiratory cases of tuberculosis

<u>AGE PERIODS</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0-				
1-			1	
5-				3
15-	4	1		1
25-	7	3		
35-	2	2		
45-	1			
55-	1			
65 & over	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>15</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis during the year.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

##### Water.

The whole of the area is supplied by the Trowbridge, Melksham and District Water Board and again I have to report that during the year a shortage was experienced in the higher parts of the town, which became acute during the summer months. The great majority of houses have water connected directly, but a small number are still served communally by standpipes, and have no kitchen sinks.

Generally speaking, the supply of water is not adequate, as many parts of the town during the whole year experienced difficulty in obtaining water during the morning when most water is used. In some cases there was insufficient water to flush water closets. It is hoped that this matter will soon be rectified.





The standard of purity of the water supplied is satisfactory. Copies of typical Chemical and Bacteriological Analyses appear below.

Lab.Ref.No.13397.

Analysis of sample of Water from tap at Old Dilton Cottages Public Supply. Taken 11 a.m. 25th July, 1945.

For the Trowbridge, Melksham & District Water Board, Trowbridge.

Appearance: Clear and colourless, no appreciable sediment.

Reaction: PH 7.2

	Parts per 100,000
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.002
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.002
Chlorine	1.25
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride	2.1
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.)	0.027
Nitrite	Absent
Nitrates (Nitrogen as)	0.13
Total Solids	39.0
Loss on ignition	3.0
Appearance on ignition	very slight charring
Hardness: Temporary	27.1
" Permanent	2.5
" Total	29.6

Lead and Copper Absent

Bacteriological examination:

Colonies on Agar @ 20°C. 9 per ml.  
do. @ 37°C. less than 1 per ml.

Organisms of the Coli-aerogenes Group, absent from 100 ml

(Signed) Waterfall & O'Brien,  
Analytical, Technical & Consulting  
Chemists, Bristol.

Lab.Ref.No.14003/04.

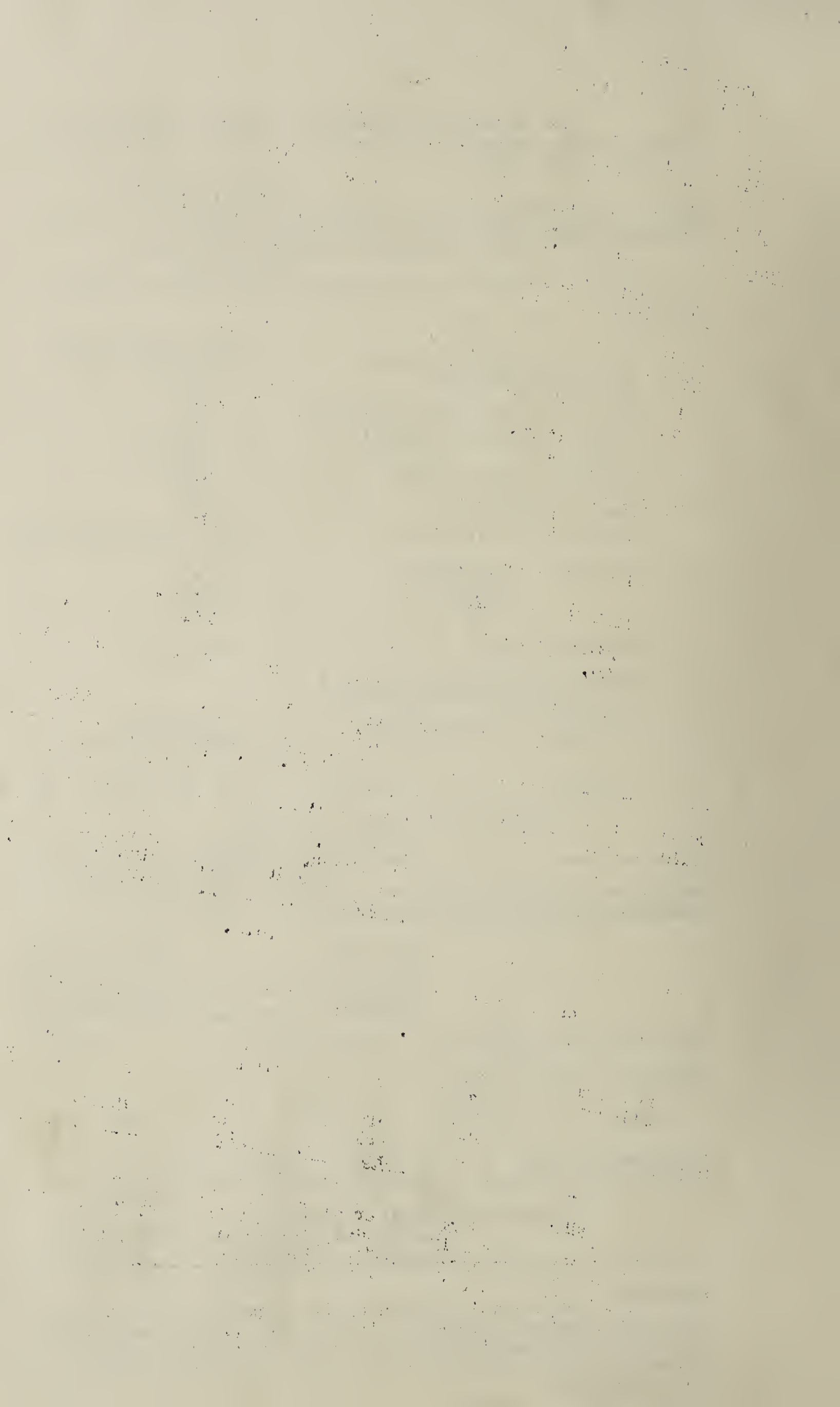
Analysis of samples of Water sent by the Towbridge, Melksham & District Water Board, Trowbridge.

No.1 Res.	513, Semington
Hilperton.	Road, Melksham.
Time taken 10.30 a.m. 8/10/45.	Time taken 10.15 a.m. 8/10/45.
Free Chlorine on arrival	0.16 p.p.m. absent
Colonies on Agar @ 20°C.	5 3
ditto @ 37°C.	3 Less than 1
Organisms of the Coli-aerogenes Group	Absent from 100 ml. Absent from 100 ml.

(Signed) Waterfall & O'Brien,  
Analytical, Technical & Consulting  
Chemists, Bristol.

Sewerage.

The town is served by the separate systems and the Sewage Works is adequate to meet the present needs, and although a reasonable effluent is being obtained further extensions are envisaged to cope with additional houses shortly to be erected.



Refuse Collection.

Refuse is collected in the town weekly, and one collection is made for salvage.

Smoke Abatement.

There was no smoke nuisance reported during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supplies.

The milk factories are all satisfactorily maintained and have been periodically inspected by myself and your Sanitary Inspector.

One licence is granted to pasteurise milk.

There are eighteen dairy farms in the district. One is licensed by the County Council to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk and one Accredited Milk.

Food Supplies.

All the animals slaughtered for butcher's meat are inspected at Trowbridge at the time of slaughter. In addition, the Council employed a part-time Meat Inspector.

*Health Officer*  
Medical Officer of Health.

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